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Really Top Secret: New Headquarters of C. I. A.

Director Signs Up, but Only Certified Passes Through Armed Gates

By [REDACTED] Staff Writer
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The staff of the Central Intelligence Agency is proud enough of its new headquarters building under construction in Langley, Va., to have road signs directing motorists on an equally new four-lane divided highway. The catch is that the motorist doesn't get to enter the site of the \$46,000,000 new building through the main or any other gate unless he has a properly certified pass or show to very grim, armed guards.

When the building becomes operational sometime in the middle of 1961, even a crashed a gate guardpost intruder would be mowed down by machine-gun fire before he reached the structure, and with its own external and internal guard systems.

For this is the headquarters of the C. I. A., where secret reports from all over the world are collated and evaluated to guide the President and dedicated the new building last week—leaders of Congress and other top-level government officials on what is happening and, if they ask, what the C. I. A. thinks they should do about it.

Now in 30 Buildings

Established twelve years ago, successor to the World War II Office of Strategic Services which was headed by the late Gen. William J. "Wild Bill" Donovan, the C. I. A. now is quartered in more than 30 scattered buildings within the District of Columbia, including twenty-two "temporary" buildings, some of which date back to World War I.

Some unmentionable "cloak and dagger" activities of the C. I. A. may continue to be housed in downtown buildings even after the new headquarters building twelve miles out is opened. Both Republican and Democratic Congresses have agreed not to divulge too much about C. I. A. activities, or the budget of the agency, which is headed by Allen W. Dulles, brother of the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles.

But, unofficially, the C. I. A. admits it has around 15,000 employees in the Washington area, and perhaps a budget of about \$100,000,000 a year. It won't say about how many people it employs abroad—where it functions in the intelligence field, having no part in counter-espionage operations at home, where the F. B. I. takes over—or about its total budget and personnel including such overseas operations.

Evasive on Questions

Some writers have put the annual secret budget of the C. I. A. at a minimum of \$1,000,000,000 a year, with a total of at least 30,000 employees in the Washington area alone. The latter figure is denied. Nobody can prove it either way. C. I. A. people are even more secretive than their colleagues in the F. B. I., the naval and military, and other intelligence services. They say only that they "work for the government" and become extremely evasive when questioned further. If they don't, they're usually fired.

That activities here—described as about 80 per cent evaluation of reports received from abroad—are rather large is demonstrated by the size of

the new building and its site overlooking the historic Potomac River. There are two parking lots, occupying about twenty-one acres, enough to accommodate 3,000 cars.

The entire site, including some wooded areas which will not be disturbed for the present, at least, comprises 140 acres. The building itself will cover nine acres, when its cafeteria, auditorium and power plant are included.

About 1,000,000 square feet of office space will be provided in the office building, which also will include an additional 600,000 square feet of corridors and service areas. It will have an auditorium seating 500 people,

and its cafeteria will be able to seat 1,000 persons at a time.

The C. I. A. is chary about discussing security arrangements for its new reinforced concrete building except to say that "alarm systems throughout the building are wired to a central control room."

In dedicating the structure last week President Eisenhower said:

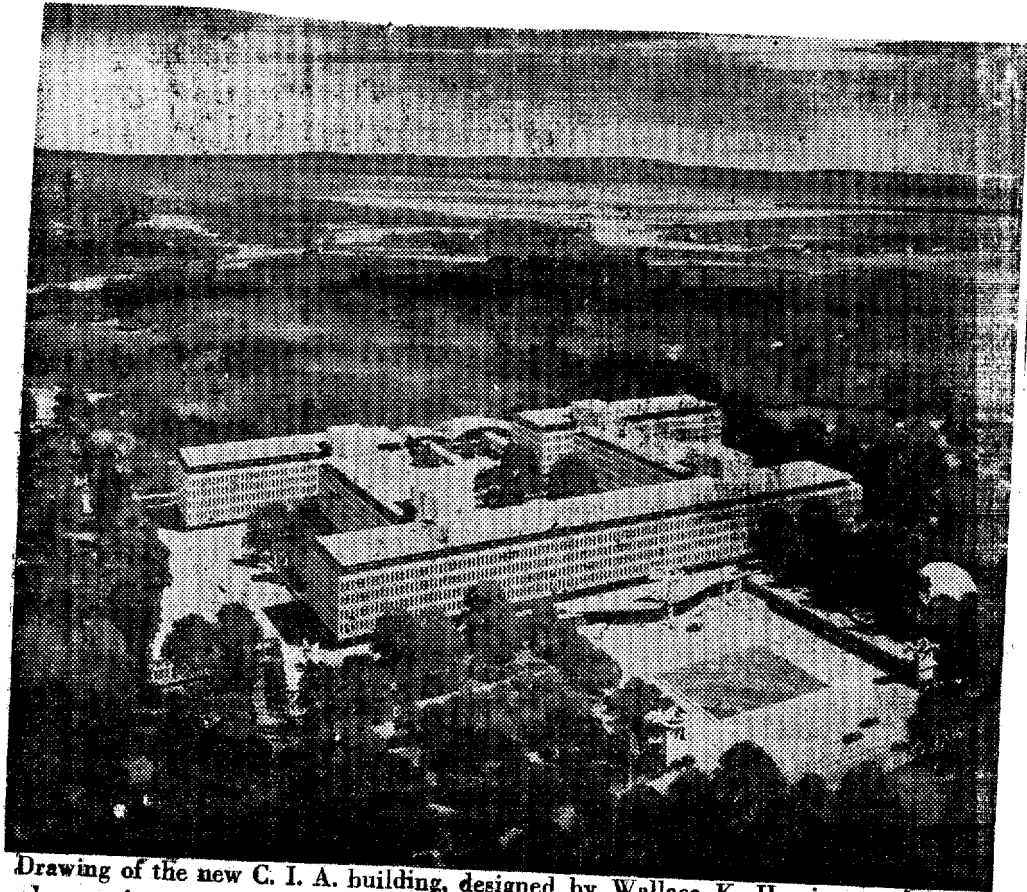
"... In the work of intelligence, heroes are undecorated and unsung even among their own fraternity. ... Success cannot be advertised; failure cannot be explained. ..."

This explains why there are road signs directing motorists to the new C. I. A. building, but no one enters there without proper clearance.

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Drawing of the new C. I. A. building, designed by Wallace K. Harrison and Max Bromowitz.

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